

**Our Lady of Fatima RCC,
802-464-7329
www.ourladyoffatima.vermontcatholic.org
olfwil@vermontcatholic.org
P.O. Box 188
96 E. Main Street
Wilmington, VT**

“Restoring the spirit of Our Lady of Fatima structure with today’s technology”

Windows Project

Committee formed: February 2019

Core Committee Members:

Tom Aiksnoras: Chairperson
Bob Rode
Don McCloskey
Sheila Osler
Geri Kogut
Fr. Ilayaraja Amaladass

- Purpose: To investigate all options in regards to repair / replacement of the large “stained glass” windows and the lower venting windows.
- Present state:
 - **Exhibit A:** The lower venting windows installed in 1964 must be replaced. Many are no longer operable due to the dry rot and failing mechanisms. Many have had broken glass over the years due to the warpage and sun damage. There is no longer any thermal value and most of them no longer close completely. Our handyman attempts to close these securely each fall to reduce heat loss. There are 16 of these venting windows that need immediate attention.
 - **Exhibit B:** The exterior of the fiberglass windows has severe “fiber blooming” taking place due to sun damage. The glass resin has completely deteriorated thus exposing the fibers.
 - **Exhibit C:** These “stained glass” windows were installed in 1964. They are “Kalwall System” windows, a colored fiberglass resin with a fiber sandwiched in-between the interior and exterior panels. At some point, a 3rd layer of clear polycarbonate was installed to add a protective layer and thermal barrier. This barrier has become severely yellowed, cloudy, and ineffective.
 - **Exhibit D:** The fiberglass windows have been caulked and re-caulked on the interior to fill in the gaps created by expansion and contraction. Presently, we have gaps showing to the exterior.
 - **Exhibit E:** The exterior of the fiberglass windows that is exposed to the sun’s rays have faded and lost nearly all color due to the UV rays breaking down the pigment in the fiberglass.
 - **Exhibit F:** Our Lady of Fatima back in the day! How we want to look after this project is completed. Colorful, vibrant, and welcoming.
 - Some of the fiberglass window sections shake on windy days due to the framing and trim deteriorating.
 - The 3rd layer that was added for protection has yellowed and is no longer transparent.

- The exterior wood trim and siding is severely warped, damaged and in need of immediate repair / replacement.
- The committee continued to gather information, meet with firms that have completed church restoration projects, and discuss options.
- The committee determined it was best to hire an architect / engineering firm to investigate possible solutions. Stevens and Associates of Brattleboro was hired.
- We investigated many possible upgrades including:
 - Installing real stained-glass panels. Due to the weight of glass, additional structural support would be required. Total estimated cost: \$800,000.00+
 - Blocking off some of the existing windows. It was determined that changing the elevation profile of the church was not cosmetically pleasing and the additional construction cost would not make this a cost-efficient option.
 - Reducing the size of the windows by raising the operable windows. This option would have changed the interior view of the windows and again, the additional construction costs would have been costly, thus we gain nothing.
- After numerous meetings with Stevens and Associates it was determined the most cost-efficient solution would be to upgrade all windows while keeping the original structure and elevation of the church as it was built in 1964. We contacted Kalwall to provide a quote and samples of the windows.
 - The new fiberglass windows will closely match the present layout and configuration. The semi-translucent “stained glass” Kalwall panels will be an updated version of the original window system. The resin composition has improved greatly and the exterior will have a UV protection layer applied. The panels will allow for approximately 16% light transmission which will eliminate glare. This an improvement to the light dispersion that we presently have in place. The new windows are expected to produce an R-Value of approximately R-5. This compares to a single pane glass with a value of R-1 and an argon gas filled double pane glass window with an insulating value of R-4. The new panels will also have a substantial reduction of solar heat gain due to the insulating factor. The new panels will have an aluminum frame and are installed with a rubber gasket to compensate for expansion and contraction thus eliminating the need for caulking. Two “stained glass” windows above the entrance doors will be made to open remotely for ventilation.
 - Construction to include removal of all wooden trim on the interior and exterior. The interior will be replaced with new matching trim. The entire exterior will be replaced with a good quality weather proof manufactured material such as AZEK, plastic lumber, closely matching the present barn red color. The cross on top of the church will also be repaired and will match the new exterior.

Estimated cost of the project based on spring of 2021 quotes:

Kalwall “stained glass” system: \$48,000.00

Window removal and installation including venting operable windows: \$128,000.00

Construction costs: \$74,000.00

Total estimated cost for the project: \$250,000.00

Exhibit A



Exhibit B



Exhibit C



Exhibit D



Exhibit E



Exhibit F



Fundraising progress



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Windows Project Fundraising

